

DOE Weekly Field Memo – October 7, 2009

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- H1N1: School-based Vaccination Clinics

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From the Human Rights Commission:

- CORRECTED DATE – Training: Investigating Complaints of Harassment in Schools

From the U.S. Department of Education:

USDOE: ARRA's \$650 Million Investing in Innovation Grant Program

Audience: All

The U.S. Department of Education released yesterday the proposed priorities, criteria and requirements for the ARRA's \$650 million *Investing in Innovation* grant program for school districts, school consortia, and partnerships of the same with non-profits. The Chief Council of State School Officers will follow-up with a complete analysis of the program, but in the mean time, please see the public notice and a related Power Point presentation released by the Department of Education. The grant opportunity is available directly to Local School Districts and is an opportunity for you to apply to receive additional funding to support innovative practices in your district. Please read through the release and if so indicated, comment directly to the federal register within the next 30 days. Click [here](#) for more information.

Contact: Rae Knopf at (802) 828-0555 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us

From the Vermont Departments of Education and Health:

H1N1: School-based Vaccination Clinics

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, School Nurses

Monday October 5, several documents related to H1N1 school-based vaccination clinics were emailed to superintendents, principals and school nurses. These documents include guidance for schools offering VDH-run clinics, school-run clinics, and for schools that are not hosting clinics. The attachments include letters home to parents in the three separate scenarios. You are being asked to share the attachments specific to your school's scenario with parents this week. Please read the documents carefully to ensure you are using the right parent letter.

In addition, DOE emailed a letter to parents of homeschool students to let them know of their right to send their child to a clinic at their child's designated school. They were directed to contact their local district to find out if that school is hosting a clinic, and if so, to get the consent form from the school. To be clear: If the clinic is being run by VDH staff, a homeschooled child from anywhere in the district will be allowed to attend the clinic. If a clinic is being run by the school, we strongly encourage the school to allow attendance by homeschooled children from anywhere in their district. If the school chooses not to invite these children, then the school should make sure that the parents receive information about other vaccination options.

For more information, visit <http://www.healthvermont.gov/panflu/SwineFlu.aspx>.

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us or Deb Wilcox, Vermont Department of Health, at (802) 652-2051 or dwilcox@vdh.state.vt.us.

From the Department of Education:

Commissioner Vilaseca Opinion Piece in Burlington Free Press

Audience: All

Commissioner Armando Vilaseca recently had an opinion piece published in the Burlington Free Press regarding the Shaun Bryer case. You can read the complete editorial [here](#).

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Advisory: Education Finance and Effectiveness Committee to Hold Public Forum

Audience: All

During the 2008-2009 Legislative Session, the Legislature created the Committee on the Financing & Effectiveness of the Vermont Education System in the 21st Century to examine potential improvements to the structure and funding of the Vermont educational system in light of the state's limited financial resources. This committee, comprised of legislators, education leaders and citizens, is chaired by Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca.

On October 14, 2009, the committee will be hosting a forum for public comment from 1:15 – 3:15 p.m. at the Statehouse, Room 11. For a complete agenda and more information, visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/legislative_committees/ed_system_financing_effectiveness.html.

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Conference Call: Combined Incidents Reporting Software (CIRS)

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Safe and Drug-Free School Coordinators

The manual for completing the required "Combined Incident Reporting Software (CIRS)" is almost ready to be made available. There are changes to this important reporting requirement that should streamline the process and make the results more reliable. The department has scheduled a conference call to explain the roll out and to field preliminary questions. There will be a subsequent training with that date to be determined. We would like to remind you that all Principals are responsible for signing off on this data collection, assuring the accuracy of the information provided. With this in mind, we encourage principals to attend to this conference call. If you have administrative staff assigned to this responsibility, we encourage you to have them attend to this call with you. The call will take place on Tuesday, October 20th at 1 p.m. We will work diligently to keep the call to under an hour. To access this call: Telephone (toll free): 1-866-642-1665; Participant Passcode: 348938. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Contact: Andy Snyder at (802)828-1086 or andy.snyder@state.vt.us.

E-Learning Vermont - Six Grants to Support Professional Development

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Technology Coordinators

Earlier this summer, The Vermont E-Learning Project was awarded \$200,000 in Title II-D Competitive funds by the Vermont Department of Education to enhance student-centered, technology-rich learning in one Vermont school in each VITA-Learn educational region by augmenting existing hardware investment with specialized professional development. The priority is schools with the greatest potential to become regional models in student-centered, technology-rich learning. All of the details for this opportunity can be found on the application which you can download at www.vpaonline.org. **Deadline: October 23, 2009 at 4 p.m.**

Contact: Ellen Kane, Development Director, at (802) 229-0547

E-Learning Coach (Part-time Grant-based Positions)

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Technology Coordinators

Associated with the grant program mentioned in the preceding announcement, each of the regional areas is seeking a coach to work with the schools. This is a part-time position for teachers or education professionals that are strong in technology integration. Each regional school will have a five person team, supported by this E-Learning Coach. VITA-Learn will help to identify coaches to participate in this project. Coaches could serve more than one region. View a full job description and application at: <http://www.schoolspring.com/job.cfm?jid=31713>. **Deadline: October 23, 2009.**

Contact: Ellen Kane, Development Director, at (802) 229-0547

Daily News Clips Service – An Alternative

Audience: All

In the wake of the demise of our Daily News Clips service, I found out that the VTNEA does exactly the same service on their site. I wanted to pass this along to all of you:

http://www.vtnea.org/news/education_in_the_news.aspx.

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

From the Human Rights Commission:

CORRECTED DATE – Training: Investigating Complaints of Harassment in Schools

Audience: School Administrators, Designated Employees, and School Staff Who May Be Involved in the Investigation of Complaints of Harassment

Wednesday, November 4 & 18, 2009; 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Franklin Conference Center, Rutland. The first workshop (November 4th) will provide participants with a very brief overview and update of the law, a brief review of the 2007 model harassment policy, and skills development: conducting complaint intakes and interview tips and techniques. The second workshop (November 11th) will continue the interview skills development, this time focusing on investigation interviews. In addition, the second workshop will focus on developing investigation plans, maintaining investigation records, analyzing information (evidence), and writing investigative reports. Both workshops will utilize an interactive format and include case study reviews and role plays. A binder of resource information and materials will be provided for each participant. While not required, the commission strongly recommends that participants attend both workshops; the materials and activities for the second workshop will be based on the information and activities from the first workshop. The cost is \$50.00 per person per workshop (\$100.00 for both days) and includes lunch and materials. The workshop is limited to 40 participants. Deadline for registration is Tuesday, October 27, 2009. The workshops will be held at the Franklin Conference Center at 1 Scale Avenue in Rutland, Vermont. Please go to <http://www.franklin-conferencecenter.com/> to access Mapquest directions to the Franklin Conference Center.

Contact: Ms. Jerri Lamson at (800) 416-2010, x25 or jerri.lamson@state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.